

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /046 W

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R 041807Z JUNE 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9034

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: HARCOS/FLETCHER

REF: NEW DELHI 7308

1. HAIDER CALLED KREISBERG LATE JUNE 4 TO REPORT "BAD NEWS". HE SAID THE CHIEF MINISTER GOWB HAD INSTRUCTED THAT A REQUEST BE SENT BACK TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ASKING FOR "CLEARER INSTRUCTIONS." HAIDER SAID HE WOULD CHASE THIS REQUEST DOWN AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE NEXT.

2. COMMENT: THE HOME MINISTRY HAVING APPARENTLY LEFT IT UP TO THE GOWB TO MAKE A CLEAR-CUT DECISION, THE GOWB'S RESPONSE HAS BEEN VERY GENTLY TO PICK THE BAG UP AND DROP IT RIGHT BACK ON THE HOME MINISTRY (AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT). THIS UNFORTUNATELY MEANS WE ARE BACK WHERE WE WERE AT THE END OF MARCH AND IT IS UP TO THE PM'S SECRETARIAT TO SEE HOW HARD IT WANTS TO SHOVE THE HOME MINISTRY TO ISSUE AN INSTRUCTION RATHER THAN AN AUTHORIZATION.

3. UNFORTUNATELY THIS ALSO LEAVES HARCOS AND FLETCHER WITHOUT A CLEAR PROSPECT TO LOOK FORWARD TO AND INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROSECUTION MAY DECIDE TO JUST MOVE AHEAD ON THEIR SAME OLD TRACK. HAIDER SAYS HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE GWOB PLANS TO DO. HAIDER SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS A HUNGER STRIKE BY

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THE TWO AMERICANS WOULD REPRESENT.

4. FOR CALCUTTA: WE THINK YOU SHOULD GO IN AGAIN TO SEE THE CHEIF SECRETARY AND ASK FOR HIS VIEW ON THE CASE. IF HE DOES NOT REVEAL THE INFO DESCRIBED IN PARA 1 ABOVE, YOU SHOULD INFORM HIM WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE QUESTION OF A CHANGE IN PLEA HAS BEEN TURNED BACK TO NEW DELHI. RECALL THAT HE HAD INFORMED US THAT THE GOWB WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A CHANGE IN PLEA AND INQUIRE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO RESULT IN THIS DECISION WHICH WILL FURTHER PROLONG THE HANDLING OF THIS CASE WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN VIRTUALLY STAGNANT FOR THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS.

5. CHARGE PLANS TO SEND A LETTER TO PM'S SECRETARY, P.N.DHAR, REVIEWING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE THINGS STAND AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT PROMPT ACTION CAN BE TAKEN TO MOVE TO CONCLUDE THIS CASE AS WAS EARLIER ENVISAGED.

SCHNEIDER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURT PROCEEDINGS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE07367
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750195-0329
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750694/aaaagnau.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 7308
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971002
Subject: HARCOS/FLETCHER
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN, (FLETCHER), (HARCOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006